CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1.   A method of performing sociometric analysis of a group of individuals comprising,

5   in a single software application on a digital computer:

creating a sociometric questionnaire comprising at least one sociometric

question, each said sociometric question including a plurality of

potential nominations corresponding to the individuals in said

group, and each said sociometric question soliciting at least one

10   nomination from said plurality;

accepting the responses to said sociometric questionnaire;

analyzing said responses to said sociometric questionnaire to generate a

sociometric analysis; and

outputting said sociometric analysis.

15   2.   The method of claim 1, wherein creating a sociometric questionnaire comprises:

displaying a plurality of questions to be included in said sociometric

questionnaire;

accepting a user's selection of said questions; and

generating a questionnaire containing said selected questions.

20   3.   The method of claim 2, wherein each said question solicits nominations for a

designation selected from the group consisting of Liked Most, Liked Least, Is

Aggressive, Is Picked On, Is Teased, Is Weird, Is a Friend, and Is a Best Friend.

4.   The method of claim 2, wherein said group of individuals is divided into

subgroups, and further comprising:

25   accepting said individuals' names by subgroup; and

assigning a unique identifier to each said individual.

5.   The method of claim 4, wherein said individuals are sorted by first name upon accepting said names.

6.   The method of claim 4, wherein for each said question selected by the user, all of the individuals in said group are presented for potential nomination.

5   7.   The method of claim 1, wherein accepting the responses to said sociometric questionnaire comprises:

displaying on a computer screen a replica of said sociometric questionnaire,

including said plurality of potential nominations associated with each said

question; and

10   indicating selected nominations on said replica in response to one or more of

said displayed nominations being designated by a user.

8.   The method of claim 7, further comprising

performing error checking on acquired sociometric data by re-executing the steps

of claim 7 for at least one said question; and

15   comparing the nominations for said question between the originally accepted

data and the data obtained from said re-execution.

9.   The method of claim 8, further comprising flagging any errors detected by said error checking.

10.   The method of claim 9, further comprising correcting any errors detected by said

20   error checking.

11.   The method of claim 1, wherein analyzing said responses to said sociometric questionnaire comprises, for each individual:

summing the total nominations that individual received from other individuals for

each question; and

25   standardizing said sum within said group;

12. The method of claim 11, wherein nominations from at least two questions are summed and standardized, generating a First Standardized Factor (SF1) and a Second Standardized Factor (SF2), and further comprising:

computing a first score by subtracting said individual's SF1 from that individual's

5 SF2;

computing a second score by summing said individual's SF1 and that individual's SF2; and

standardizing said first and second scores by the nominating group to generate a First Standardized Score (SS1) and a Second Standardized Score (SS2).

10 13. The method of claim 12, further comprising classifying said individual into one of six sociometric classifications according to the following rules:

First Sociometric Class: $SS1 > 1$, $SF1 < 0$, and $SF2 > 0$;

Second Sociometric Class: $SS1 < -1$, $SF1 > 0$, and $SF2 < 0$;

Third Sociometric Class: $SS2 < -1$, $SF1 < 0$, and $SF2 < 0$;

15 Fourth Sociometric Class: $SS2 > 1$, $SF1 > 0$, and $SF2 > 0$;

Fifth Sociometric Class: $-0.5 < SS1 < 0.5$ and $-0.5 < SS2 < 0.5$; and

Sixth Sociometric Class: all others.

14. The method of claim 12, wherein said SF1 is generated from nominations indicating the individual is Least Liked, and wherein said SF1 is generated from

20 nominations indicating the individual is Most Liked.

15. The method of claim 14, further comprising calculating probability scores for each of said six sociometric classifications indicative of the reliability of said individual's classification within the respective group.

16. The method of claim 14, further comprising calculating strength scores for each

25 individual indicative of the degree to which said individual's classification within the six respective sociometric classifications is fixed versus fluid.

17.   The method of claim 1, wherein analyzing said responses to said sociometric questionnaire comprises means for calculating probability scores associated with sociometric classifications.

18.   The method of claim 1, wherein analyzing said responses to said sociometric questionnaire further comprises detecting and indicating reciprocal nominations.

19.   The method of claim 1, wherein analyzing said responses to said sociometric questionnaire further comprises detecting and indicating self-nominations.

20.   The method of claim 1, wherein outputting said sociometric analysis comprises generating a scatterplot diagram.

21.   The method of claim 20, wherein points representing selected individuals are highlighted on said scatterplot diagram.

22.   The method of claim 20, wherein said group of individuals is divided into subgroups, and wherein points representing the individuals within selected subgroups are highlighted on said scatterplot diagram.

23.   The method of claim 20, wherein spatial regions of said scatterplot corresponding to sociometric classifications are indicated.

24.   The method of claim 1, wherein outputting said sociometric analysis comprises generating a slider bar diagram for one or more of said sociometric questions.

25.   The method of claim 24, wherein the linear extent of said slider bar represents the range of responses to said sociometric question, and an indicator locates one or more individuals along said slider bar in spatial proportion to said individual's ranking in said group with respect to said sociometric question.

26.   A system for performing sociometric analysis of a group of individuals,

comprising:

an input device;

a display; and

5   one or more processors programmed to:

create a sociometric questionnaire comprising at least one sociometric question,

each said sociometric question including a plurality of potential

nominations corresponding to the individuals in said group, and each said

sociometric question soliciting at least one nomination from said plurality;

10   accept the responses to said sociometric questionnaire;

analyze said responses to said sociometric questionnaire to generate a

sociometric analysis; and

output said sociometric analysis.

27.   The method of claim 26, wherein said one or more processors programmed to

15   accept the responses to said sociometric questionnaire comprises said processors

programmed to:

output on said display a replica of said sociometric questionnaire, including said

plurality of potential nominations associated with each said question; and

indicate selected nominations on said replica in response to one or more of said

20   displayed nominations being designated by a user via said input device.

28.   The method of claim 26, wherein said one or more processors programmed to

analyze said responses to said sociometric questionnaire comprises said processors

programmed to classify said individuals into one of a plurality of sociometric

classifications, and to calculate and report probability and strength scores associated

25   with said classification.

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29.   The method of claim 26, wherein said one or more processors programmed to analyze said responses to said sociometric questionnaire comprises said processors programmed to detect and indicate reciprocal nominations.

30.   The method of claim 26, wherein said one or more processors programmed to

5   analyze said responses to said sociometric questionnaire comprises said processors programmed to detect and indicate self-nominations.

31.   The method of claim 26, wherein said one or more processors programmed to output said sociometric analysis comprises said processors programmed to generate output selected from the group consisting of a scatterplot diagram and a slider bar.

32.   A computer readable carrier including a program that causes a digital computer to perform sociometric analysis of a group of individuals, the computer program causing the computer to perform the steps of:

creating a sociometric questionnaire comprising at least one sociometric

5   question, each said sociometric question including a plurality of potential

nominations corresponding to the individuals in said group, and each said

sociometric question soliciting at least one nomination from said plurality;

accepting the responses to said sociometric questionnaire;

analyzing said responses to said sociometric questionnaire to generate a

10   sociometric analysis; and

outputting said sociometric analysis.

33.   The method of claim 32, wherein accepting the responses to said sociometric questionnaire comprises:

displaying on said display a replica of said sociometric questionnaire, including

15   said plurality of potential nominations associated with each said question;

and

indicating selected nominations on said replica in response to one or more of

said displayed nominations being designated by a user via said input

device.

20   34.   The method of claim 32, wherein analyzing said responses to said sociometric questionnaire further comprises classifying said individuals into one of a plurality of sociometric classifications, and calculating and reporting probability and strength scores associated with said classification.

35.   The method of claim 32, wherein analyzing said responses to said sociometric

25   questionnaire further comprises detecting and indicating reciprocal nominations.

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36. The method of claim 32, wherein analyzing said responses to said sociometric questionnaire further comprises detecting and indicating self-nominations.

37. The method of claim 32, wherein outputting said sociometric analysis comprises generating output selected from the group consisting of a scatterplot diagram and a

5   slider bar.